

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION GUIDE
WINDBREAK/SHELTERBELT ESTABLISHMENT**

380

380 – STEP 1. INITIAL EVALUATIONS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to determine the landowner's desire to establish windbreak or shelterbelt plantings in New Mexico. (See Natural Resources Conservation Service, Practice Standard 380).

The landowner must be interviewed to determine the purpose and need for windbreak/shelterbelt establishment. Some considerations will include the landowners intended need for reducing wind erosion, manage snow deposition, enhance wildlife habitat, develop noise or visual screens, delineate field or property boundaries, protect plantings, provide shelter for structures, provide shelter for livestock, improve air quality, improve irrigation efficiency, increase carbon storage and other pertinent reasons.

380 – STEP 2. INVESTIGATIONS, SURVEYS, AND INVENTORIES

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to identify all of the mandatory preliminary operations that are required before a windbreak/shelterbelt establishment operation can be sited and planned. This will include identifying all needed utility clearances, archeological clearances, and identifying the proper USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle sheet and other needed maps.

380 – STEP 3. PRACTICE DESIGN

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to plan the windbreak/shelterbelt establishment operation, identify the objectives, and develop a record of the completed actions taken.

All required deliverables for the design, installation, and compliance are found on the New Mexico Statement of Work.

This document will be followed to successfully complete the project.

The local conditions will need to be assessed at the proposed site in order to identify any possible problems that may arise. This involves assessing the local landscape and topographic conditions and the local land uses, among other things. Species selection must be appropriate to the local area and must fall within the maximum height requirements. The plantings must be oriented as close as perpendicular to the prevailing winds as possible. Planting dates must be appropriate for an acceptable rate of survival. Plantings must be spaced to meet the project needs and provide growing space for the selected plant types and species. Plantings will be protected from unacceptable adverse impacts from insects, wildlife, livestock and fire.

Mulching or supplemental water may be required to assure adequate survival and growth. Erosion control must be implemented. All appropriate maps and reports must be reviewed with the landowner. An awareness of the types of equipment and materials used in the establishment of trees and shrubs is essential, and a list of accepted materials must be provided to the landowner. (See Natural Resources Conservation Service Practice Standard 380, Practice Specification 380, and pertinent job sheets).

The landowner will need to provide the contractor with the appropriate standards, statement of work, job sheets and personal expectations.

380 – STEP 4. PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to document and describe the methods and materials used during the development of the windbreak/shelterbelt.

This will include the documentation of the equipment and tools which were used, techniques and methods used at each site, and recording the relevant information from each site on the approved specification sheets, statement of work, job sheets, technical notes and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.

380 - STEP 5. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to assure the proper management and maintenance is completed at the job site. (See Natural Resources Conservation Service, Practice Standard 380, Practice Specification 380, and appropriate job sheets.

This requires a familiarity with the design and management objectives in order to minimize erosion potential and to maintain the site in a proper and safe fashion while meeting the objectives of the project. These measures should be discussed with the landowner.

380 – STEP 6. COMPLIANCE OR SPOT CHECKING

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to determine that all work has been completed to the standards required by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

All completed NRCS forms should be collected from the landowner and submitted to the appropriate persons. (See Natural Resources Conservation Service Practice Standard 380, Practice Specification 380, Statement of Work (Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment) and associated job sheets).

II. DOCUMENTS

Copies of all completed job sheets and associated work sheets should be submitted to the Natural Resources Conservation Service representative within 10 working days of completion of the project. .